

Message Text

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44

ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 STR-04 COME-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 ITC-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /039 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8244

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR ETRD MTN

SUBJ: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN MTNS

REF: GEORGE WHITE LETTER OF JUNE 25

1. AGATTACHE HAS CHECKED REQUEST LIST ITP PREPARED FOR MTN AND SEES LITTLE IF ANY U.S. GAIN EITHER IN LOWERING OR BINDING APPLICABLE DUTIES AND PROBABLY LITTLE CHANCE OF PERSUADING GOI TO RELINGUISH REIGHT OF MINISTRIES' PRIOR APPROVAL OR ESTABLISHED PRACTICE OF STATE PURCHASING FOR BULK OF COMMODITIES TRADED WITH U.S.

2. OF GREATER INTEREST TO U.S. WOULD BE CONCESSIONS ON PACKAGED OR PROCESSED FOODS, WHICH SHOW PROMISE OF FURTHER RAPID GROWTH. LIBERALIZATION THESE PRODUCTS HAD BEEN PROMISED LAST YEAR BUT DOES NOT NOW APPEAR IMMINENT.

3. TARIFF OR NTB CONCESSIONS ABOVE GROCERY ITEMS, AS WELL AS QUALITY MEAT, POULTRY, DAIRY PRODUCTS AND RRESH FRUIT COULD HELP EEC AND OTHER EUROPEAN AREA HOWEVER EVEN MORE THAN U.S. DUE POSSIBLIITY EUROPEAN SHIPMENT BY OVERLAND TRUCK.

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4. THERE ALSO SOME INCONSISTENCIES IN IRANIAN
TARIFFF SUCH AS PRECTICE OF CHARGING \$15 PER
HEAD FOR CATTLE LISTED AS "FREE" AND EVADING
HIGH DUTY ON TALLOW BY ENTERING IT UNDER OTHER
FATS AND OILS(SEE REPORT IR-6012).

5. IN SUMMARY, NON-NEGOTIABLE NTBS SUCH AS STATE
TRADING, PRIOR MINISTERIAL AUTHORIZATION,
UNAUTHORIZED IMPORT LISTS, EXISTING TRADE AGREEMENTS
AND PROBLEMS CREATED BY PORT CONGESTION, DEMURRAGE
COSTS AND THE GOVERNMENT ANTI-INFLATION CAMPAIGN
APPEAR TO INFLUENCE VOLUME OF TRADE MUCH MORE THAN
TARIFF RATES. OF THESE FACTORS, THE MAIN
IMPEDIMENTS TO U.S. TRADE RELATIVE TO EUROPE
ARE THOSE RELATED TO TRANSPORT.
HELMS

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